

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A polarizing member comprising a sheet-like member formed so that linearly polarized light can be obtained as transmitted light through said sheet-like member after natural
5 light is incident on a rear surface of said sheet-like member, wherein said sheet-like member exhibits a transmittance difference of not larger than 6 % between transmitted light components within a 20 nm-wide wavelength region in a transmission spectrum of light in a wavelength range of from
10 520 to 640 nm when said natural light is incident on said sheet-like member at any angle ranging from an angle viewing from a line normal to a surface of said sheet-like member to an elevation angle of 80 degrees.

15 2. A polarizing member according to claim 1, wherein said sheet-like member is constituted by an absorptive type polarizer or by a laminate of an absorptive type polarizer and a reflective type polarizer allowing linearly polarized light to be transmitted therethrough and formed so that an axis of
20 transmission of linearly polarized light through said reflective type polarizer and an axis of transmission through said absorptive type polarizer are parallel to each other.

3. A polarizing member according to claim 2, wherein
25 said reflective type polarizer is constituted by a linearly

polarized light separating sheet which separates said linearly polarized light from said natural light by interfacial reflection in a multilayer film, or by a laminate of a quarter-wave plate and a circularly polarized light separating sheet of cholesteric liquid-crystal layers.

4. An illuminator comprising a planar light source including a reflection layer on a rear surface side of said planar light source, and a polarizing member according to claim 1 and disposed on a front surface side of said planar light source.

5. An illuminator according to claim 4, wherein said planar light source emits light while said light exhibits at least one emission-line peak.

6. An illuminator according to claim 4, further comprising at least one prism array layer disposed between said planar light source and said polarizing member.

20

7. An illuminator according to claim 6, wherein when said at least one prism array layer is formed by at least two prism array layers in upper and lower layers, directions of arrangement of prism arrays of said at least two prism array layers cross each other.

8. A liquid-crystal display device comprising an illuminator according to claim 4, and a liquid-crystal cell disposed on a light exit side of said illuminator through a polarizing member of said illuminator.

9. A liquid-crystal display device according to claim 8, wherein said polarizing member and said liquid-crystal cell are bonded closely to each other through an adhesive layer so as to be integrated with each other.